A Community Resource for Employment, Education and Enrichment

Fall 2010

Volume 13 • Issue 2

CareerFocus™

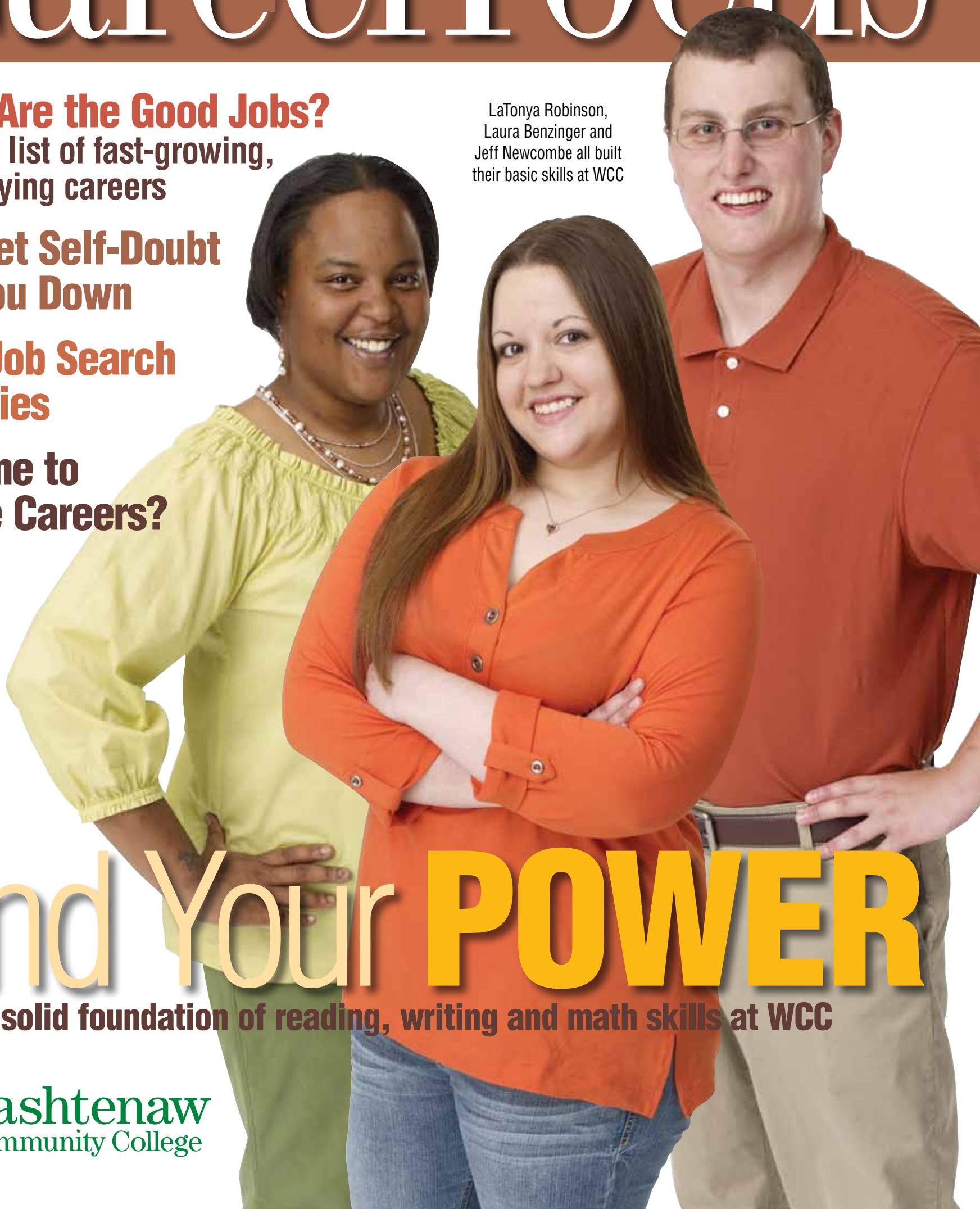
Where Are the Good Jobs?

See our list of fast-growing, high-paying careers

Don't Let Self-Doubt Drag You Down

Smart Job Search Strategies

Is it Time to Change Careers?



LaTonya Robinson, Laura Benzinger and Jeff Newcombe all built their basic skills at WCC

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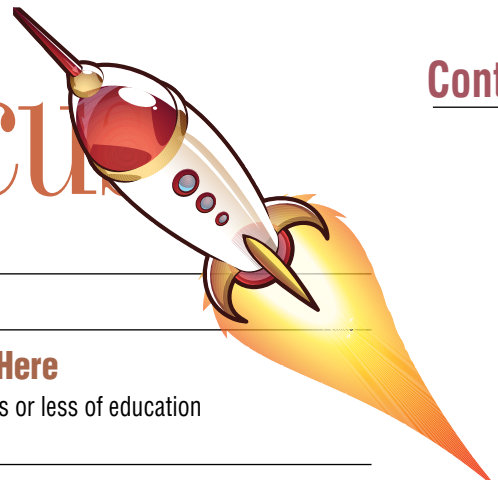
CareerFocus



Contents

Features

CAREER WATCH

4 **Where Are the Good Jobs? Right Here**
Many fast-growing career require two-years or less of education

CAREER SENSE

5 **Achieve the 4 Cs**
Everyone needs these core traits to succeed

6 **Knowledge Is Power**
WCC developmental courses prepare students for success

STUDENT PROFILE

7 **Jeff Newcombe** Making up his mind to succeed

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

7 **Julie Kissel** Taking the fear out of writing

8 **Words Are Power**
Taking reading and writing beyond the fundamentals

STUDENT PROFILE

9 **LaTonya Robinson** The will to rise above

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

9 **Denise Crudup** Building a foundation for knowledge

10 **Math Is Power**
Students develop confidence to master math

STUDENT PROFILE

11 **Laura Benzinger** Making friends with math

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

11 **Kristin Chatas** Math literacy is a mission

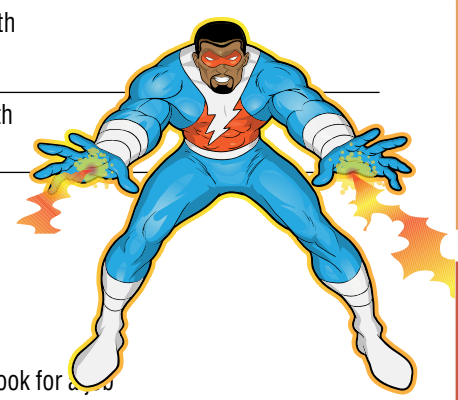
12 **Yes, You Can**
How to recognize your value

14 **Smart Job Search**
There's a right way–and a wrong way–to look for a job

15 **I'm Outta Here**
When does it make sense to change careers?

IN YOUR WORDS

16 **My New Life in the Making**
I lost a job and gained an opportunity to follow my dream



In Every Issue

WCC NEWS

2 ***Automobile*** Editor Jean Jennings Delights WCC Audience

3 FACTS AND FINDS

- The Jobs We Want
- What Kind of Job is That?
- Live (and Work) Happily Ever After
- Money Still Isn't Everything

WCC SCHOOLS

17 **The Basics and Beyond**

On the cover:
LaTonya Robinson, Laura Benzinger and Jeff Newcombe built thier reading, math and writing skills before moving into college-level classes.

NEWS

Automobile Editor Jean Jennings Delights WCC Audience

"I have suffered from a severe case of macho woman syndrome in which I felt that I had to do everything better than the men around me."

With lines like that, Jean Jennings, the editor in chief of *Automobile* magazine easily won over her audience with lively stories of making it in a guy's world. The mostly female crowd attending the WCC Foundation's Annual Women's Council lunch in May delighted in her tales of growing up in New Baltimore, Mich. as the only girl among five brothers, and her adventures with power tools and fast cars.

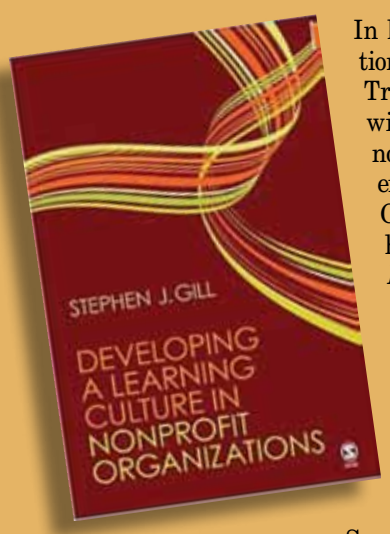
Jennings became infatuated with cars early on, "They seemed to be the key to everything I wanted," she quipped, "which was to get the hell out of New Baltimore." At 15 she graduated from high school, and at 16 she entered the University of Michigan where she lasted three restless semesters. From there she went on to driving a taxi, then driving, testing (and crashing) vehicles for Chrysler, and eventually proving her mettle as a writer at *Car and Driver* magazine before leaving to co-found *Automobile*.

Her constant desire to prove herself resulted in a life philosophy that includes caveats such as: Ignore anyone who says you can't do something because you're a woman; You can do anything if you learn how to use the tools; If being a woman works to your advantage, don't be stupid—take it.

Jennings chats with female students in WCC's Welding and Auto Services programs after her presentation.

The WCC Foundation Women's Council provides scholarships and mentoring for female students at WCC and is supported by donations from individuals and organizations. See *www.wccnet.edu/foundation* for more information. CF

WCC Trustee Publishes New Book



In his 25 years as an organizational learning consultant, WCC Trustee Stephen Gill has worked with dozens of corporations and nonprofits from the likes of General Motors to the Ann Arbor Art Center. This year he published his third book on the subject, *Developing a Learning Culture in Nonprofit Organizations*, distributed by Sage Publications, and in May it was nominated for the Alliance for Nonprofit Management's 2009-2010 Annual Terry McAdam Book Award.

Specifically for nonprofit organizations, the book is both a practical manual for managers and a textbook for college studies in social work and public policy. Through his writing and consulting, Gill teaches the principles of organizational learning, a method and philosophy for nurturing employee performance. The concept of organizational learning was developed in the 1970s but popularized in the 1990s by business guru Peter Senge.

Gill's three previous books, *The 5As Framework, The Manager's Pocket Guide to Organizational Learning* and *The Learning Alliance*, are allso practical guides for applying organizational learning principles to the workplace.

Gill currently serves as WCC's Board Chair. He will complete his first six-year term on WCC's Board this year. He earned his Ph.D. in counseling psychology from Northwestern University and was on faculty of The University of Michigan School of Education before becoming a full-time consultant. He has published over 45 articles, book chapters and books, as well as handbooks and manuals related to learning and development.

His blog, *www.ThePerformanceImprovementBlog.com*, addresses a wide range of current events and topics as they apply to improving organizations and leadership. CF

Nearly 2,000 walkers and runners, and teams from dozens of area organizations and businesses participated in the Heart Walk held on WCC's campus Saturday, May 15. This was the fifth year in a row the College has hosted this fundraising event which raised over $90,000 for the American Heart Association. CF

Despite the rainy weather, about 2,000 children and adults attended the Ann Arbor Area Earth Day at WCC on April 27. Children's activities, environmental education and entertainment were all part of the line up celebrating the 40th anniversary of Earth Day. CF

Achieving the Dream at WCC

As a college education becomes even more important for career success, WCC has joined over 30 community colleges in 24 states that are working hard to increase student success rates. Membership in the "Achieving the Dream" initiative provides WCC with access to experts and creates new opportunities for institutional research and program evaluations that will ensure the College is doing all it can to help at-risk students achieve their academic goals.

Achieving the Dream™

WCC received funding to support this effort from the New Economy Initiative, a philanthropic effort to transform southeast Michigan into an innovation-based economy.

"Washtenaw Community College is proud to be a new member of the Achieving the Dream initiative," said President Larry Whitworth. "This partnership is the capstone to outreach efforts WCC has already put in place to serve at-risk students." CF

Facts AND Finds

The Jobs We Want

The 2010 Universum American Student Survey asked college students to name the employers they'd most like to work for. Their answer varies depending on their college major, but for the fourth year in a row Web giant Goggle came out on top overall.

Where college students want to work:

- Business and IT students–Google
- Engineering students–NASA
- Natural science students–National Institutes of Health
- Humanities and liberal arts students–Teach for America

Source: www.universumglobal.com

This recession has been coined the "man-cession" because of the massive job losses in the construction and manufacturing industries, which traditionally employ disproportionately high percentages of men… Last month the unemployment rate for women fell to 7.9 percent, compared with a steady 10 percent unemployment rate among men.

What a 9.7 Unemployment Rate Means, U.S. News and World Report www.usnews.com, Feb. 5, 2010

What Kind of Job Is That?

Looking for a career with a promising future? Have you ever considered becoming a brownfields redevelopment specialist and site manager, a genetics counselor, a skin care specialist or a wind energy operations manager?

You say you've never heard of any of these jobs and have no idea how to get one? You'll find them on the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics list of Fastest Growing Careers or so-called "bright outlook careers."

Many of the jobs on the list are old stand-bys such as registered nurses, computer software engineers and school teachers, but you'll be surprised at the new, unusual and offbeat careers that are expected to grow in the near future.

Here's the scoop on the jobs:

Brownfield Redevelopment Specialist and Site Manager

- Plan and direct cleanup and redevelopment of contaminated properties for reuse.
- Projected growth of 7-13 percent
- Median salary: $90,230

Genetic Counselors

- Assess individual or family risk for a variety of inherited conditions, such as genetic disorders and birth defects.
- Projected growth of 14-19 percent
- Median salary: $43,630

Skin Care Specialist

- Cleanse and beautify the skin by giving facials, full-body treatments, head and neck massages, and by applying makeup.
- Projected growth of 20 percent
- Median salary: $28,730

Wind Energy Operations Manager

- Manage wind field operations, including personnel, maintenance activities, financial activities and planning.
- Projected growth of 7-13 percent
- Median salary: $90,230

Source: online.onetcenter.org/help/bright

Live (and Work) Happily Ever After

Work life and home life aren't as separate as you might think.

If you're happy in your job, you're probably happy in your marriage too. That's one finding of The Early Marriage Project which has been studying what makes marriages work–or not work–since the mid 1980s under the direction of Teri Orbuch, Ph.D.

For the sake of a healthy marriage, Orbuch (also known as *Psychology Today's* Love Doctor) recommends that couples regularly talk about their work day and find effective ways to relieve the stress of the workplace.

Most importantly, the study finds that spending your workday at challenging, rewarding activities contributes enormously to overall happiness and makes you a happier spouse.

"Workers who are fulfilled and stimulated during the workday tend to be happier individuals," Orbuch concludes.

Source: "Happy Employees Make Happy Spouses: 4 Ways to Be a Happily Married Employee", April 28, 2010 Psychology Today (www.Psychology-Today.com)

Money Still Isn't Everything

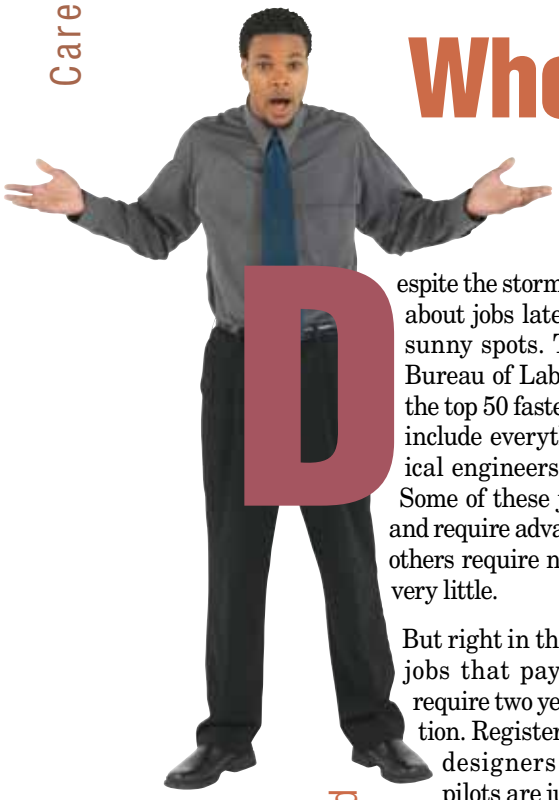
In his new book *Drive The Surprising Truth About What Motivates Us* best-selling author Daniel Pink explains that money really doesn't motivate people to do their best work.

While we expect to be paid fairly for our work, it's not cash that drives us to excel. What most of us really want from our jobs is interesting work, and the freedom to explore, innovate and master our profession. We'd also like to get a little recognition for a job well done.

Although that may go against everything that we know about the workplace today, Pink explains that curiousity, inspiration and the desire to have a little fun with our work can provide more of an incentive than a big paycheck.

Drawing on research into human motivation, Pink concludes, "The secret to high performance and satisfaction—at work, at school, and at home is the deeply human need to direct our own lives, to learn and create new things, and to do better by ourselves and our world." CF

Career Watch



Where Are the Good Jobs? Right Here

Many fast-growing careers require two-years or less of education

By Laura L. Crawford

Despite the storm clouds of bad news about jobs lately, there are a few sunny spots. The United States Bureau of Labor Statistics list of the top 50 fastest-growing careers include everything from biomedical engineers to tree trimmers. Some of these jobs pay big wages and require advanced degrees while others require no training and pay very little.

But right in the middle are many jobs that pay good wages and require two years or less of education. Registered nurses, interior designers and commercial pilots are just a few examples. And although it's still true that jobs in healthcare education and computer technology dominate the top 50, there are also some surprising fast-growing careers that haven't received as much attention.

For our list we cherry-picked some of the top-paying, fastest-growing jobs that require an associate's degree or certificate. Every one of these jobs pays $40,000 or more a year and is expected to grow much faster than average over the next ten years.

Dental Hygienist

36 percent growth

Median annual wage $66,570

Work: Hygienists work in dentist offices and clinics cleaning teeth and providing preventive care. Many hygienists work part-time schedules.

Education: Accredited dental hygiene programs are offered at public and private two-year and four-year colleges.

Physical Therapist Assistant

33 percent growth

Median annual wage $46,140

Work: PTAs work in clinics and hospitals to assist physical therapists with treatments for patients to improve mobility, relieve pain and prevent or lessen physical disabilities.

Education: Accredited physical therapist assistant programs are usually associate degree programs offered at public and private two-year and four-year colleges.

Environmental Engineering Technician

30 percent growth

Median annual wage $41,100

Work: EETs work with environmental engineers and scientists in the prevention, control or remediation of environmental hazards.

Education: Associate degree programs in engineering technology are offered at public and private technical colleges and community colleges.

Occupational Therapist Assistant

30 percent growth

Median annual wage $48,230

Work: OTAs assist occupational therapists with rehabilitative services to clients with mental, physical, emotional or developmental impairments.

Education: Accredited associate degree programs are offered at public and private two-year and four-year colleges.

Heating, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Mechanic and Installer

28 percent growth

Median hourly wage $19.08 (approximately $39,700 yearly)

Work: HVACR technicians install and repair heating, cooling and refrigeration systems in homes and commercial and industrial buildings.

Education: Certificate and associate degree programs are offered at pubic and private technical colleges and community colleges.

Paralegal and Legal Assistant

28 percent growth

Median annual wage $46,120

Work: Paralegal and legal assistants perform many of the same tasks as lawyers, assisting in preparation for closings, hearings, trials and corporate meetings and investigating the facts of cases.

Education: Associate and certificate programs are offered at public and private two-year and four-year colleges.

Medical Equipment Repairers or Biomedical Equipment Technicians

27 percent growth

Median annual wage $41,520

Work: BMETs maintain, adjust, calibrate and repair a wide variety of electronic, electromechanical and hydraulic equipment used in hospitals and doctors' offices.

Education: Associate degree programs are offered at public and private technical and community colleges.

Note: Find the full list of fastest-growing careers at *www.careeronestop.org*. Just click on "Explore Careers" and select "What's Hot" followed by "Fastest Growing Occupations." Growth and salaries are based on the Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates for 2008-2018. **CF**

New at the CareerFocus Café www.CareerFocusCafe.com

Growing Green Jobs

Are opportunities really growing in the green economy? The answer is yes. See the latest CareerFocus Café video to find out more about colleges that are offering programs in alternative energy and green technologies.

Looking for Some Good Career Advice?

Check out some of the new books reviewed at CareerFocus Café. Recent titles include *Managing Thought* by Mary J. Lore, *New Resume New Career* by Catherine Jewell and *Strength Finder 2.0* by Tom Rath

Advice Please?

I've been in the same job in maintenance for 10 years and I hate it. It's nasty; it makes me feel so worthless and I need a change.

My work background includes telemarketing, retail and some medical office experience. I know I need to go back to school to get a job that's worthwhile but I'm concerned how I can pay for it. I went to a trade school to learn medical billing a couple of years ago but it didn't really result in a job. I don't want to spend money on an education again or get stuck with repaying loans I can't afford. What do you suggest?
Signed, I Hate My Job

Would you like to read the answer to this Workplace Dilemma? Find it at CareerFocus Café, *www.CareerFocusCafe.com* **CF**

Achieve the 4 Cs

Everyone needs these core traits to succeed

By Vickie Elmer

If you want to get ahead at work or land a good job, you need four Cs.

No, we don't mean your grades should be average–far from it. We mean your crucial traits must include a mastery of the 4 Cs–communication, collaboration, critical thinking and creativity.

communication
collaboration
critical thinking
creativity

Count to four

Those four traits will become increasingly important to employers in the years ahead, according to a recent American Management Association survey of 2,115 managers. They are foundational skills that will help you win work and win promotions.

The 4 Cs "pretty much apply to anyone's job," and will stay with you when you move up, says Manny Avramidis, the American Management Association's senior vice president of global human resources. They will work for security guards, securities analysts and CEOs.

The 4 Cs "pretty much apply to anyone's job." They will work for security guards, securities analysts and CEOs.

The AMA defines the 4 Cs this way:

- **Communication** refers to the ability to effectively express ideas in writing and in speech.
- **Collaboration** means the ability to work with others who may be different from you or have different points of view.
- **Critical thinking** is the ability to make decisions, solve problems and take appropriate action.
- **Creativity** refers to being innovative and using your imagination to see what's NOT there and to make something happen.

Why they matter

The 4 Cs are growing in significance because of the pace of change in business and the amount of work that must be accomplished in teams. "I can see them become increasingly more important because the world is getting smaller and smaller," says Avramidis, who oversees the hiring and development of some 1,000 AMA staffers around the world.

They are important enough that three-quarters of managers already have started measuring their current staff's communication skills, critical thinking and collaboration during performance reviews. In about half the cases, workers were considered "only average" in communications and creativity and innovation, the AMA research found.

The 4 Cs and similar lists have been called crucial by other organizations including the Society for Human Resource Management. Yet two-thirds of human resources managers say some new workers lacked critical thinking, self-direction, overall professionalism and written communications skills, all of which are on SHRM's core competencies lists.

"Being a subject-matter expert is not enough, particularly in a down economy," says Margo Rose, whose career in human resources has led her to jobs in social media, recruiting for a Cincinnati law firm and establishing Hire Friday on Twitter. "Critical thinking is so important. I define critical thinking as looking at an issue from lots of different viewpoints and...making an informed decision. If (job hunters) can convey that in a job interview, they're going to be heads above the rest."

Learn how

Start by grading yourself on your 4 C skills. Then ask a former boss or coworker to be brutally honest in assessing you too. Spend time thinking of occasions when you came up with novel solutions or built a bridge with your words. That will give you some target areas in which you can increase your strengths and reduce weaknesses.

If you're trying to add more of these into your life and your resume, jump into some activities, such as the debate team or the international business round table or a new fundraiser for your favorite charity.

Here are four other approaches, shared by Avramidis:

- Join activities that require communication and collaboration, and then document them on your resume.
- Choose classes where the professor has built the 4Cs into the coursework, and stay away from basic lecture classes where you never use them.
- Grab an internship or part-time job to learn in an environment similar to one you may land in full time later on.
- Develop your skills using some new communication tools, whether IM or ShareSlide or a social network related to your field. But remember: You need to be able to talk face-to-face too.

Though all four skills are important, effective communication really is crucial at every age and stage of a career. And just because you can talk for hours with your friends does not mean you're connecting with the hiring manager who's 15 years older than you–or 15 years younger.

Employers also appreciate seeing the 4 Cs woven into your resume and your experiences. Critical thinking combined with communications and creativity means an individual stands out as "a problem solver....finding solutions no one else has even thought of," says Rose. "That's going to be a tremendous boon to your career." CF

WCC Programs

Knowledge Is Power

WCC developmental courses prepare students for success

By Laura L. Crawford

It's not unusual to find students in WCC classrooms who'll admit they hadn't planned on going to college at all.

Perhaps at one time they'd been told they "weren't college material." Perhaps they were glad to leave formal education behind after high school. Perhaps they were one of the lucky few who found a good job without college training and never looked back.

But sometimes plans change. And that's where WCC comes in.

It might take a layoff, a dead-end job or just the gradual realization that most good jobs require some college, whether it's a short-term certificate, an associate's degree or a four-year degree.

Among high school students nationwide who took the 2009 ACT college admissions test, 33 percent needed more preparation for college-level writing, 47 percent needed more preparation for college-level reading and 58 percent needed more preparation for college-level algebra.

Better pay, more security

According to the most recent U.S. Census survey, workers with a high school degree make a median of $27,448 a year while workers with some college or an associate's degree bring home $33,838 and those with a bachelor's degree earn a median of $47,853. According to The American Diploma Project, 80 percent of all job openings now require at least some college education.

But sometimes preparing for a career requires students to step back and prepare for success in college first.

"Being ready for a career means that a high school graduate has the English and mathematics knowledge and skills needed to qualify for and succeed in the postsecondary job training and/or education necessary for their chosen career," says a report by ADP.

College ready

When students enroll at WCC, they begin with a placement test to evaluate their reading, writing and math skills. This test, called the COMPASS, determines the level at which students begin their college education. For about 15 percent of WCC students, pre-college level developmental classes in reading, writing or math are required before they can jump into a college curriculum.

Some of these students may have been out of the classroom for years, even decades. Others simply didn't take the college-prep classes in high school that would prepare them for college-level learning.

Even students who already planned to go to college may discover they're underprepared. Among high school students nationwide who took the 2009 ACT college admissions test, 33 percent needed more preparation for college-level writing, 47 percent needed more preparation for college-level reading and 58 percent needed more preparation for college-level algebra.

Nationwide, about 53 percent of entering college students need at least one developmental course in reading, writing or math says ADP. While some four-year colleges offer developmental classes, the nation's community colleges provide the majority of them.

At WCC

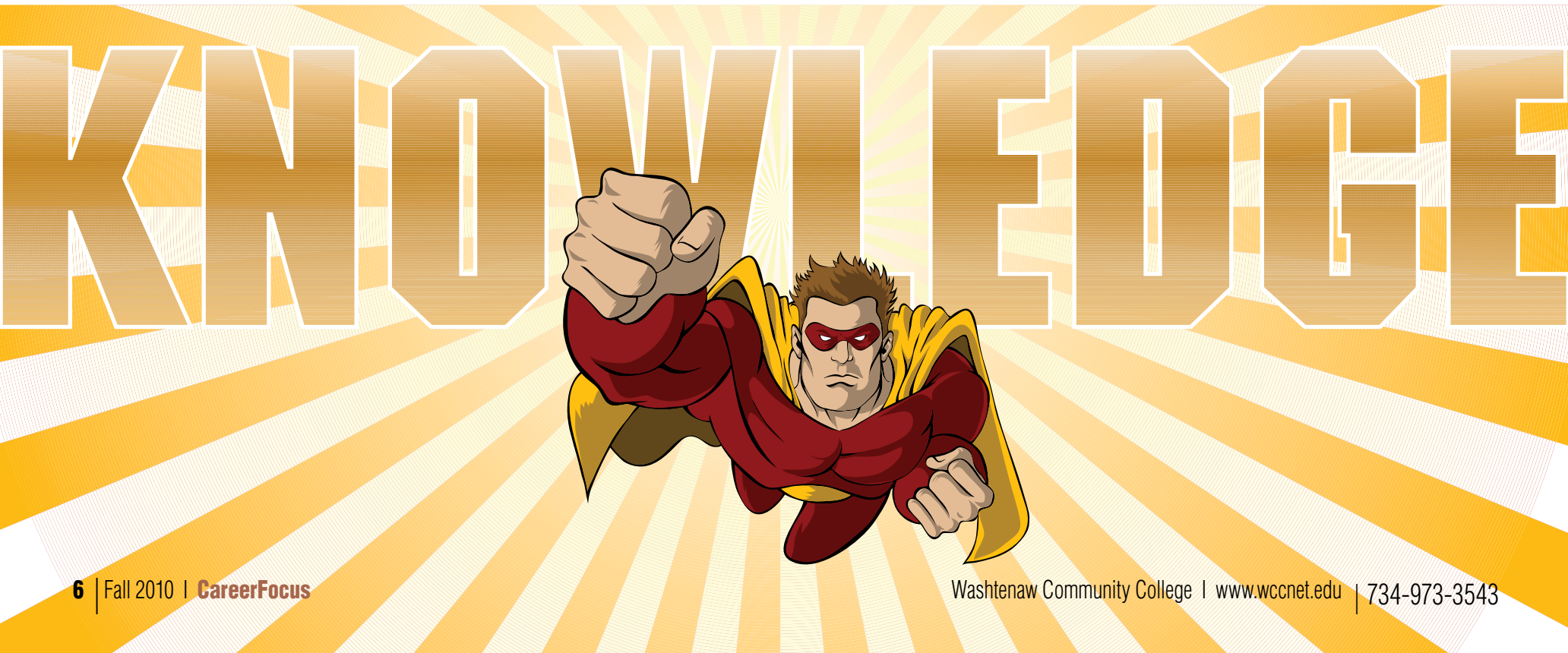
With approximately 2,000 to 3,000 students enrolled in at least one developmental course during the fall and winter semesters, WCC takes its commitment to developmental education seriously. All in all, WCC offers nearly 200 sections of developmental reading, writing and math classes per semester.

About two years ago a group of WCC instructors formed the Developmental Task Force to compare notes, develop strategies and improve success rates for these important courses.

"We discovered that we shared many of the same students and that our students shared many of the same challenges," says developmental math instructor Kris Chatas, one of the members of the group.

"Many of the developmental-level instructors concentrate on teaching only these classes," says Julie Kissel a developmental writing instructor who has devoted her career to teaching basic writing.

"It's gratifying to see students really get it, and from there gain the confidence to keep going toward their goals." CF



STUDENT PROFILE

Jeff Newcombe

Making up his mind to succeed

Because of a learning disability Jeff Newcombe had no illusions that he would easily slide right into college level classes and he didn't. He was determined to go to college even though high school had not been easy for him. For the last year he's taken developmental math, reading and writing classes to get him up to college-level speed.

"I was upset at first when I found out that I would have to take about two years of developmental classes. But I knew I didn't have an option if I wanted to get my degree. So I made up my mind and did all the classes in one year," says Newcombe.

When he talks about his plan to become a physical therapist assistant his eyes light up, and it's as if he can't wait to get started in the program, which he will as soon as he finishes his prerequisites. He loves to help people and he feels physical therapy is something that he could do well.

Because of Newcombe's documented learning disabilities, WCC's Learning Support Services and his instructors have helped him along the way.

"The instructors in the developmental classes really worked with me and they showed me they cared that I understood the subject. Now I'm doing well in school, but I'm taking it one class at a time," says Newcombe. **CF**

ES

SPOTLIGHT ON FACULTY

Julie Kissel

Taking the fear out of writing

For nearly seven years, Julie Kissel has taught classes in Basic Writing and Writing Fundamentals at WCC. She begins the semester with a clear lineup of assignments. Students do in-class writing, grammar activities, formal writing assignments and independent work in the Writing Center.

"After that first day, students can feel overwhelmed," Kissel says. "They see 15 weeks of work, and it seems unmanageable. In addition, many have little or no experience with academic success. They can get scared and they can freeze up."

She expects students to write from the first day of class, even if they can only get a out a couple of words. "Some students don't believe they have the right to an opinion, or if they don't say something perfectly, something bad will happen," she says.

"This is where we step back and talk about the fear. I tell them that writing is a process with a set of skills that everyone can learn, and they can slowly work up to where they need to be."

Kissel earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from Eastern Michigan University, specializing in English and special education, as well as education for those with hearing impairments and learning disabilities. After college she taught for four years at the W.J. Maxey Boys Training School in Whitmore Lake. She worked with young men whose crimes were mostly drug related, but also included murder.

"Those students had come from backgrounds where a whole myriad of things had spiraled out of control. Once you got them out of those settings and into a controlled setting – no drugs, no guns, a school where they had a chance to learn, even the idea that there might be something else out there for them, they were perfectly fine to work with."

Kissel sees her students become more confident as they become more competent in their skills. "It's important to me that my work with these students allows them to see what they can do to improve their lives. I've been very lucky in my own life. This is a way to give something back." **CF**

CJS

Academic Skills Teach Success

Successful colleges students know that there are two types of skills necessary to accomplish their goals. On one hand, effective reading and study skills are critical, but beyond that, a positive attitude and good habits will determine the difference between success and failure.

WCC's Academic Skills (ACS) department can provide students with both.

Reading and study skills

For students who still need to improve their reading skills, but are advanced beyond the developmental reading classes, both ACS 107: College Study Skills and Speed Reading and ACS 108: Problem Analysis and Critical Thinking will improve reading and analytical skills.

Success skills

College, like life, can be complex. When college students fail it's often because they either miss too many classes or don't complete their coursework. Often work, family or transportation problems are the cause.

Students with busy, complicated lives may realize that staying in college can make their life better, but they also need some pointers on how to stick with it and succeed.

Even when life is complicated, success is possible–and courses like ACS 065: Success Skills Workshop and ACS 095: Student Success Seminar were designed to show students the way.

"These classes teach students the attitudes and behaviors that will make them successful in college," says Joan Lippens instructor and chair of the Academic Skills department.

"Students gain enthusiasm and confidence in themselves. Our own statistics show that a greater percent of the students who take these classes stay in college and do better in their other classes,"

These courses provide students with the boost they need to persevere in college. "The classes cover topics from goal setting to planning to personal responsibility to time management," say Lippens.

"A sense of empowerment is what students gain," she says, "They feel like they can take charge of the situation, get the skills and resources they want and become the person they want to be." **CF**

WCC Programs

Words Are Power

Taking reading and writing beyond the fundamentals

By Laura L. Crawford

When we talk about reading and writing for college, we're taking about more than the basics. Although most people are comfortable with the everyday uses of the written word from reading signs to reading email, academic reading and writing demand much more.

Reading

"In many ways, reading classes are actually 'How to Be Successful in College' classes," says reading instructor Denise Crudup. "We teach students the expectations for reading, learning and studying in college."

For example, textbooks require readers to learn new terms, and make sense of new information and ideas. And other academic reading from literature to history to psychology requires students to comprehend, weigh and judge the information they read.

WCC offers Reading Comprehension I and II for students who need to improve reading strategies and vocabulary. And in the Academic Skills department, College Studies and Speed Reading and Problem Analysis and Critical Thinking teach students to read critically and analyze texts.

Building confidence and good study habits are the most important steps for reading students says instructor Bonnie Arnett. "Most students have what it takes to learn the material, but they don't read well because they got lost in the school system at one point or another. With practice, about halfway through the semester they realize they can read college material, in fact they ARE reading college material."

Crudup agrees. "Most students are in a reading class to learn what they missed or forgot from high school. This isn't about how smart they are, because many of them are incredibly intelligent."

In fact these courses might even give students an advantage later on she says. "Some studies have shown that students who take developmental classes are more successful in their other classes because they have learned what's expected in college and how to be good students."

Writing

College writing is the other side of this coin. In WCC's developmental writing classes–Basic Writing I and II and Writing Fundamentals I and II–students review grammar and punctuation; they learn to recognize the difference between formal writing and everyday conversation; and they learn to hone and develop their ideas through writing and rewriting.

"Knowing how to present an opinion and support it with facts is a powerful skill, and that's what writing teaches you," says writing instructor Julie Kissel. "Writing gives individuals more power over their lives."

The truth is, teachers, employers and others have expectations about writing and will judge you based on these.

"Writing isn't everything," Kissel says. "But it's definitely important." It matters in school, in personal business and on the job.

Kissel likes to show students some of the badly written emails she's collected over the years. They're full of misspellings, grammar mistakes and confusing sentences. She asks students in her class, "What do you think of this person? What would a teacher think of them? Would you hire them? What kind of job do you think they should have?"

Kissel recalls one student who wasn't doing well in her Writing Fundamentals class until he realized how his lack of writing skills hurt him. He was a father who faced a legal challenge to visiting his children. Because he couldn't write well enough to explain his case to the court, he became afraid he'd lose his children.

So he started working hard in the class, and when Kissel asked him what had changed he answered, "I want to have control over words; I don't want to feel stupid anymore." CF

"Most students are in a reading class to learn what they missed or forgot from high school. This isn't about how smart they are, because many of them are incredibly intelligent."

STUDENT PROFILE

LaTonya Robinson

The will to rise above

Cinderella had one fairy godmother. LaTonya Robinson has two; the caseworker who encouraged her to rise above her circumstances and the WCC instructor who helped her do so.

Born on Detroit's east side, Robinson, her twin sister and older brother were orphaned after their mother died when the girls were just one year old. After placement with a family member didn't work out, nine-year-old Robinson, her sister and brother were placed in foster care. Robinson ultimately landed at an organization for abused and neglected children.

At that time, she gravitated to the wrong people and didn't place much stock in her education, but her case manager saw things in her she didn't see in herself. She encouraged her to change her crowd and set goals, attending college among them. With her help, Robinson enrolled at WCC. It was "a real blow" to her when she tested at a third-grade reading level.

"Reading wasn't a priority when I was growing up. We didn't have books, magazines or newspapers in our house. Somehow I graduated from high school even though I couldn't read very well."

Despite the bad news, she didn't give up, but signed up for WCC developmental classes. Her reading instructor, Denise Crudup, gave her hope and help–and a little hell. "She pushed me and pushed me. I doubled my reading level after one year. A college reading level is 81 percent; I'm at 92 percent and have a 3.17 grade point average now," she says proudly. "I'm going to EMU's School of Social Work this winter. I want to work with foster kids.

"My family hasn't been very supportive, but I knew education was the only way to make myself and my life better. I'm so grateful to Ms. Crudup. I can't believe my life today!" **CF**

AL

SPOTLIGHT ON FACULTY

Denise Crudup

Building a foundation for knowledge

Living in Minnesota in the 1990s with a degree in political science, Denise Crudup took jobs wherever she could find them. After a stint in sales and a job as a paralegal, she worked in the computer industry as a quality assurance analyst.

At that time, Minnesota was looking for teachers who wanted to work in urban areas and was offering fellowships for people interested in filling those positions.

"Teaching sounded like a pretty good career," said Crudup. "So I went back and got my master's in education."

Crudup focused her graduate studies on reading development for the English as a Second Language population. After teaching for a brief time in Minnesota, she returned to her native Michigan where she taught reading and language arts in the Detroit Public Schools.

Wanting to expand her work with ESL students, Crudup went back to Eastern Michigan University for a second master's in TESOL—Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages. She left her job in Detroit to study and work as a graduate assistant at EMU, and that summer she saw an ad for a reading instructor at WCC.

"I began teaching at WCC part-time six years ago and the rest is history," she says.

Most of her students six years ago were fresh out of high school and needed simply to brush up on their skills, says Crudup. Today the age range is much broader, with students from their late teens to 60 years of age. As readers, they struggle with low vocabulary levels and a lack of background knowledge that has a huge impact on understanding what they read.

"New knowledge is built on old knowledge," said Crudup. "The first year of college is an introduction to the new disciplines, and there's a presumption that students are bringing with them a vast background knowledge, which many aren't.

"In class we work on building vocabulary and how to read a textbook. We try to teach them what knowledge they need to know and what knowledge is nice to know." **CF**

JLH

Making Literacy a Priority

As important as reading and writing are to education, it's surprising that many people still read below high school level. As many as 25,000 people in Washtenaw County are considered functionally illiterate. But the good news is that there are resources to remedy this.

WCC's Reading Clinic

Located in a bright, open room in WCC's Crane Liberal Arts and Sciences building, the clinic is a resource for anyone who reads below high school level level and wants to improve their skills, but it is especially for those who'd like to prepare to move on to college classes.

Students who read below high school level can enroll in the Reading Clinic's non-credit class, which meets twice a week and includes one-on-one or small group work with a volunteer tutor.

"Our students range from those fresh out of high school to older students. Some may have just finished a GED. Most want to read better so that they can get a better job," says Reading Clinic Coordinator Beth Henke. "Often they feel stuck in dead-end jobs in retail or restaurants."

For questions about WCC's Reading Clinic, call Beth Henke at 734-477-8722

Washtenaw Literacy

For those who read below a 6th grade level and need to begin with one-on-one tutoring, Washtenaw Literacy serves adults throughout the county who want to improve their basic literacy or who speak English as a second language.

WCC is one of the three locations where Washtenaw Literacy maintains an office and offers tutoring and study groups.

Contact Washtenaw Literacy at 734-769-0099. **CF**

WCC Programs

Math Is Power

Students develop confidence to master math

By Laura L. Crawford

OK, if you hate math raise your hand. As expected, there are a lot of you out there. How did that happen? I mean, we've all heard how important math is for everyday life and for career success.

Ask WCC math instructor Kristin Chatas and she'll tell you that it begins early. "For whatever reason math has created so many scars–maybe student have experienced failure in the past, or someone told them they weren't good at it. Maybe an early math teacher failed to teach well, and the effect of that on students builds and builds."

"Mathematical illiteracy is powerlessness. If you can't understand what it means to pay 14 percent annual interest on a credit card or to earn 10 percent on the stock market, you're lacking necessary life skills."

Why math matters

Or ask math instructor Jason Davis who once counted himself among the math haters, although today he has a master's degree in the subject, calls himself a math dork and inspires his students with his passion. He flunked math more than once in high school, and as a WCC student himself took pre-college level algebra three times before he discovered that there was something there that he loved.

Back in a classroom in 2000, he was totally transformed by WCC math instructor Mohammed Abella's approach. Abella punctuated math lessons with stories of mathematicians and their lives, with images from the Hubble telescope and explanations of the mathematical formulas that made seeing into the furthest reaches of the universe possible.

Davis began seeing math as something more like poetry than drudgery, and it gave him the tenacity to keep studying and learning. Today he blends his stories with examples of the very real importance of math in everyday life.

"Mathematical illiteracy is powerlessness." He says. "If you can't understand what it means to pay 14 percent annual interest on a credit card or to earn 10 percent on the stock market, you're lacking necessary life skills.

"Most students at WCC are here because they believe a degree will lead to a better life and better career, and math is part of that. At the very least, the lessons from my class will be a voice on their shoulder when they're tempted to run up their credit card bill."

Supporting success

Chatas agrees, "If you don't understand math, people can take advantage of you. You don't know how to interpret your bills and finances. It's part of our cultural literacy to be able to decipher charts and graphs. And there is no career in which some level of math isn't necessary."

Chatas and Davis also agree that the first hurdle in any developmental math class is convincing students that they can do it, "There are very few students for whom the content is too difficult to master," says Chatas. Simply realizing that putting the time into class, homework and studying will pay off in mastering the material is the trick.

"Math is hard," says Davis. "I tell students that it takes a lot of work."

Students get support for that hard work however. Chatas says, "We build a community where students feel safe to ask questions and take risks by giving them a chance to get to know each other and work together. We emphasize making the math relevant, and applying it to real life."

"I'm always available outside of class for meetings or questions," says Davis. He even recently started a Saturday morning study session. "At first I thought no one would come, but we have a core group who've worked their butts off to learn algebra and also formed some personal bonds in the process."

He adds, "Essentially I want to support students so they don't have any excuse not to do well." CF

STUDENT PROFILE

Laura Benzinger

Making friends with math

Laura Benzinger was never a huge fan of high school. She skipped regularly and didn't see the point in it. She graduated, barely, and moved to Florida.

Going to college was never in her plans, but after six months she still couldn't find a job. She moved back to Michigan and decided she needed to continue her education if she wanted something better than her parents.

"Most of my family never graduated from high school. I grew up listening to how much my parents hated their jobs. I knew if I wanted something better I'd have to get a college education," says Benzinger.

She knew she wouldn't score at college level in the math portion of the COMPASS, the WCC skills assessment test that places students in appropriate level classes. She was right and began her studies in the Foundations of Mathematics class.

"I hated math in high school and I was scared coming here and taking math. But there was no other option if I wanted to get a college degree," she says. "But I just walked into class that first day and immediately felt comfortable. There were all kinds of students in the class—all ages, races, genders. I didn't feel singled out for a second."

Benzinger passed both developmental math classes and finally understood math for the first time in her life. "The teachers were so supportive and explained concepts in the way I could get it.

"I felt totally prepared to take college level math classes when I was done with the developmental classes," says Benzinger. "I never felt stupid or not good enough."

Benzinger graduated with an Associate in Liberal Arts focusing on Spanish and a grade point average of 3.89 in May and will transfer to Eastern Michigan University this fall to get her bachelor's degree.

"My dad is so proud of me! There are always going to be students who need help. I'm grateful that WCC provides that help." **CF**

ES

SPOTLIGHT ON FACULTY

Kristin Chatas

Math literacy is a mission

Sure, math instructor Kristin Chatas could teach vector analysis, transformational geometry or abstract algebra, but she prefers to teach WCC's two developmental math courses: Foundations of Mathematics and Foundations of Algebra.

In the classroom, Chatas feels she's not only a teacher, but a cheerleader and mentor. "I love working with students who need a second chance, who are appreciative of everything that I do to help them understand math concepts. I like inspiring people to do things they thought they couldn't do," says Chatas.

But as much as she teaches her students she learns from them too. "I am shaped by my students," she says. "Each semester there is always a student who makes me a better teacher by asking me why I do certain things. It makes me examine the way I teach and improve it."

When Chatas was a student at the University of Michigan she wanted to be a doctor like her father. But after the first year she realized it wasn't her passion, so she looked for an alternative.

Since she'd taken a lot of math classes and enjoyed them she changed her focus to teaching. After graduating, she taught at Greenhills School, Dexter High School and Pioneer High School. She began teaching part time at WCC in 1996 and became full time in 2001. What does she love best about teaching at college instead of high school? "No bathroom passes!" she jokes.

Chatas is committed to helping students become mathematically literate. "Math can be a sour subject for a lot of people but when they understand a concept it unlocks a room full of opportunities!" **CF**

ES

The Other Kind of Literacy–Computers

Are you computer literate? Even if you use the computer every day, you may discover that you're not prepared for computer use in the college classroom. Today, that classroom demands a lot more than the basics.

Strong computer skills are no longer optional

"A lot of people think that computer literacy means knowing how to check email and post to Facebook," says WCC Computer Information Systems instructor Mike Galea. "But using the computer for information is becoming a basic life skill, whether you want to calculate interest payments for a new car, map out a trip or write a research paper," he says.

In addition to that, college students should be comfortable using a computer to research and evaluate information, calculate data and format reports and presentations.

That's why WCC will add a new Computer Competency class (CIS 100) this fall as a requirement for all degree-seeking students. Computer Competency will not only teach these important skills but will provide an introduction to the newest tools and applications.

For now and the future

The course will cover the big three applications–Microsoft's Word, Excel and PowerPoint. It will also cover finding and evaluating information on the Internet. Although the Internet is packed with information, not all of it is reliable or accurate, and it's an important part of a college education to sort the good from the bad.

Computer Competency will prepare students for the next big thing too. The topics will probably change as new technologies emerge, says Galea. Cloud computing is one of those emerging technologies today. It refers the trend toward providing applications over the Internet rather than installed on individual computers. Google Apps is one example of this. "This is the future our students will be living, so we should get them familiar with it now," he says.

"CIS 100 will probably become a prerequisite for many classes eventually," says Galea. "But right now we really encourage students to take it as soon as possible. We're offering 50 sections already in the fall semester." **CF**

Feature

Yes, You Can

How to recognize your value

By Anita LeBlanc

Given the choice between hiring two equally bright candidates–a shiny, happy person or a negative sad sack–who would you choose? It's a no-brainer; individuals exuding self-confidence–faith and trust in their abilities–are those we want to be around and hire.

Lynne Sarikas, director of the MBA Career Center at Northeastern University's College of Business Administration says, "When a candidate doesn't show an ounce of confidence, I may feel terribly sorry, but I can't hire them. We tell students, 'You are selling yourself in interviews. You can't do this effectively if you don't believe in yourself.' "

Marilyn J. Sorensen, Ph.D., a clinical psychologist and author of *Breaking the Chain of Low Self-Esteem*, says a lack of self-confidence can be a symptom of low self-esteem, a condition where a person mistakenly believes that they are inadequate, unlovable, unworthy or incompetent. This way of thinking only increases a job seeker's fear of making a mistake or failing–and plunges their level of self-confidence.

While cascading job loss, financial strain and depression may erode the confidence of the most optimistic person, it doesn't change the fact that people still want to hire capable, confident people.

Both note that while cascading job loss, financial strain and depression may erode the confidence of the most optimistic person, it doesn't change the fact that people still want to hire capable, confident people.

What to do if you're unemployed and suffering a confidence crisis? Help is closer than you think.

Eliminate the negative, accentuate the positive

Sarikas and Sorensen believe self-confidence is an inside game, one where you must take action to change your thoughts. The first step for the confidence-challenged, says Sorensen, is to diligently edit negative thoughts and only allow authentic self-statements based on fact, truth or history in order to eliminate inaccurate, self-defeating thoughts and behaviors.

In other words, when you think, "I'm an unemployable loser," remember that you have been employed and the contribution you made: "I had a job and I was a reliable, hard-working employee. I'll have a job again."

Both recommend taking stock and writing down your positive traits (Are you honest, funny, cooperative, sincere?), your successes and examples of situations in which you overcame adversity. If you feel your job loss was because of your own negligence, acknowledge it and move on. Rehashing and self-recrimination are cold, comfortless companions.

Can't recall what's so great about you? Ask a friend, former coworker or manager to jog your memory or supply appreciation or recommendation letters. Reference your list and collection of credentials and endorsements often to maintain your self-appreciation. It may sound silly, but no more so than living in your head thinking about how unemployable and unlikeable you are–and far more productive.

Take a break from you

Obsessive thinking about you and your situation won't restore confidence. Sometimes you need to unplug the thinking-about-me machine and make a contribution to others to release yourself from fear and doubt. Being conscious of others' needs and doing something to make a positive difference can help you rediscover your usefulness and well being.

That's why experts recommend volunteering or seeking no-cost ways to be of use while between jobs. Serve breakfast at a soup kitchen once or twice a week or rake leaves for an elderly neighbor. Doing small acts of kindness have a way of getting negative thoughts out of our heads and putting self-affirming ones in their place.

Prepare and practice

How to boost your confidence pre-interview? Sarikas says preparation and practice are key. She suggests thoroughly researching the company and your interviewers. Consider questions you're likely to be asked and your responses. Prepare your own questions and list examples of your work or experiences relevant to the position. Sarikas also suggests anticipating questions such as, "Tell me about a time you had conflict and how you resolved it?" or, as the iconic interviewer Barbara Walters once queried, "What kind of tree would you be?"

Ask friends to practice interviewing with you and give you feedback about your performance. Before interview time, ask a friend or mentor for a personal pep rally and then pump yourself up with accurate, positive self-talk. Sorensen adds the importance of taking time to review your list of factual and truthful statements and historical record of successes.

Be here now

Focus is the watchword for confident interviewing. Sarikas says it's important when interviewing to believe that this is the best place for

What's Your Confidence Quotient?

Genuine self-confidence takes courage

By Anita LeBlanc

Take this quiz to see if you know how to hold on to your self-confidence after a job loss.

1 The best strategy to get your confidence back after a job loss is to:

- ☐ a. Acknowledge the loss and give equal time to assessing how you did or didn't contribute to the situation.
- ☐ b. Tell everyone about your bad break and rotten former employer. They are certain to agree with you and you'll feel so much better.

2 To accurately assess your positive traits:

- ☐ a. Find a list of positive affirmations, look in the mirror and say them out loud to yourself each day.
- ☐ b. Write down the things you know that are undeniably good about you. Ask a friend or coworker to jog your memory if you need help.

3 The best thing to do just before going into a job interview is to:

- ☐ a.Remember all your authentic positive traits and experiences.
- ☐ b. Think about all the mistakes you've made so you won't make them again.

4 You've scored an interview! What should you do to get ready?

- ☐ a. Nothing. They've seen your resume and they want you. Job, here you come!
- ☐ b. Get your Google on and learn all you can about the company and interviewer.

5 It's been a while since you've lost your job, you've had several dead-end interviews and are feeling desperate. The best thing to do is:

- ☐ a. Take some time to help a friend or volunteer a few hours a week.
- ☐ b. Continue to make your job hunt your first priority. The harder you work at it, the more likely it is you'll find a job.

Answer Key

Give yourself one point for each correct answer.

1–a. Job loss, currently impacting millions across the nation due the economic downturn, is consistently listed as a top stressor. Personal factors–excessive tardiness or absenteeism or being unfocused at work–can be other reasons behind losing a job.

Sorensen suggests not taking your job loss personally if you didn't do anything wrong. However, if you did play a part, you must be willing to take an honest look at yourself. She suggests writing about why you think you lost your job and what you did rather than ruminating about it in your head. Having the facts written down will help you move on.

2–b. Generic affirmations, such as "I'm a good person," feel and sound absurd for a reason: They are non-specific and lack authenticity. Sorensen says true confidence comes from acknowledgment of one's specific, genuine positive attributes. Unsure of yours? She recommends asking others for help when compiling a positive inventory. They are often able to remind us of our good qualities when stress inhibits our memory.

3–a. No one can take away your undeniable positive attributes and experiences. Dwelling on past mistakes or situations that you feel didn't work to your advantage are bona fide confidence killers.

4–b. People are undeniably more interested in learning about you when you take an interest in them. As Dale Carnegie, author of *How to Win Friends and Influence People* said, "You can make more friends in two months by becoming interested in other people than you can in two years by trying to get other people interested in you."

You show your respect and interest when you take the time to learn about your hoped-for employer and interviewer. The bonus is you go to your interview prepared for an intelligent discussion, a key confidence booster, according to Sarikas.

5–a. While it's important to continue researching and applying for jobs, obsessive job hunting and non-stop networking can exhaust you and wreak havoc on your confidence. Certainly spend time each day on your search, but take a break and help others if you find yourself feeling inadequate and frustrated.

It can be the best thing you can do to help yourself. Why? Because being of service gives your life meaning. It's a reminder that while you may currently feel impotent career-wise, you still have purpose and power in your ability to be useful to others–a sure-fire nutrient that will make your confidence bloom and grow.

Scoring

4–5 points: Well done! You've got what it takes to shine.

2–3 points: Not bad, but understanding and employing some confidence raising tactics may help you enhance yours.

0–1 point: Time for a confidence makeover. Consider asking a friend or mentor to help you in your quest for improved self-confidence. CF

you to be at this point in time. Don't think about how long you've been unemployed, how you need a job or your competition.

Take the heat off by being attentive to and interested in those interviewing you. Be yourself and don't apologize for what you are not. After all, it's generally not who you are that holds you back, it's worrying about who you think you're not. Be the best you can be and the rest will take care of itself. CF

Feature

Smart Job Search

There's a right way–and a wrong way–to look for a job

By Margaret Steen

When you're looking for a job, the quality of the time you spend searching is often more important than the quantity.

"There are folks who are spending a ton of time sitting in front of the computer, sending their resumes off into cyberspace and not getting any responses," says Sarah Boland, coordinator of career and employment services at Diablo Valley College in Pleasant Hill, Calif.

To make the best use of your job search time, first consider how companies fill jobs. More than one-quarter of outside hires were made via referral in 2009, according to a survey by CareerXroads. Company websites accounted for about 22 percent of outside hires, and job boards for about 13 percent. The survey found very few hires from social media.

Networking, then, should be your top priority, since it leads to referrals. Use job boards in moderation. Social media may be better as a networking tool than as a direct link to a job.

Step away from the computer

Experts' main advice on what not to do: Don't spend all your job search time in front of a computer screen.

"Your time online looking for a job can almost be like a black hole if you don't spend it wisely," says career coach Chandlee Bryan of Best Fit Forward.

Many of the activities that are recommended, such as getting out of the house and meeting people, can also keep you from becoming depressed and giving up on your search–a definite recipe for failure.

Proceed with caution

A number of traditional and newer job search tools can be very helpful–but only if you use them correctly and don't go overboard.

- **Job boards.** Do look online for jobs, but don't make this the centerpiece of your hunt.

"If you can find an online job posting, so can thousands of other people," says Dr. Janet Civitelli, associate director of university career services at the University of Houston. "I recommend limiting online surfing for job postings to one hour per day."

- **Social media.** Facebook, LinkedIn and other sites can be great for keeping up connections with people who may be able to help you. But again, you can spend too much time online and not enough on other parts of your search. Civitelli recommends limiting social media time to an hour per day as well.

- **Online research.** It's a great idea to identify some key companies you'd like to work for, then go to their sites for job postings and news.

"Go to those websites and really learn what's going on," says Wendy Gelberg, owner of Gentle Job Search and Advantage Resumes. Just make sure it doesn't become a substitute for connecting with people.

- **Working with recruiters.** Remember that recruiters work for the company that is hiring, not for you. Do talk to recruiters who specialize in your field, but don't spend a lot of time on it, says Barbara Safani, owner of Career Solvers. If you're right for a position they are filling, they will be in touch.

- **Job fairs.** Use job fairs to get a sense of what companies are looking for and to practice introducing yourself and interviewing. But don't assume you'll walk out with a job.

Go where the people are

You should spend most of your job search interacting with other people. The relationships that are likely to be most fruitful are those that involve more than you simply asking, "Do you know of any openings?"

"It's not just about selling yourself," Boland says. "It's about active listening and being genuinely interested in what others are saying."

Activities that help you get to know a wide variety of people are helpful, even–or especially–if you don't spend every minute asking people about jobs.

Some job seekers join success groups, groups of people who are looking for work and agree to meet regularly to help each other. Volunteer work, classes and internships are all good ways to make professional contacts as well.

A limited part of your networking time may be spent at the computer, sending follow-up notes to people you met or setting up lunches and informational interviews.

"The key is to be out in the world and engaged with others," Civitelli says. CF

"The key is to be out in the world and engaged with others."

I'm Outta Here

When does it make sense to change careers?

By James Militzer

As he entered his 50s, Mark Noonan had what most people would consider a wildly successful career. A high-flying tech executive, he earned six figures and travelled the world. But when his wife died unexpectedly in 2004, he found himself questioning his path.

"I knew I wanted to give back to the community, so I did a lot of soul searching and left my job," he says. After earning a degree in gerontology at Portland Community College, he found work at a nonprofit that serves seniors. "There's definitely a difference in pay. But I go home every day knowing I'm making a difference, which was not how I felt in the tech industry."

Before you take any drastic steps, you should figure out if you're fed up with your career–or just frustrated with your job.

Though midlife epiphanies like Noonan's aren't uncommon, in today's economy a career change is often a necessity rather than a choice. If you're unhappy (or unemployed) in your current field, how can you decide if it's time to shift to a new one? And if you opt to change careers, should you make a gradual transition, or quit your current job and jump in with both feet?

A toe in the water

Martha Mangelsdorf, author of *Strategies for Successful Career Change*, recommends caution. "If you're thinking of making a dramatic career change, find some low-risk ways to explore a new career before you quit your job," she says. "Talk to people in the field and find out what it's like, or maybe see if you can shadow them at work. Take an evening class–community colleges are ideal for career changers because they're affordable, vocationally focused, and well-suited to working with adult learners. Get some part-time or volunteer work that's relevant to the career you're exploring. Or do a small-scale consulting project for a friend or relative, to get a feel for the work and to make sure you really like it."

According to Talane Miedaner, career coach and author of *Coach Yourself to a New Career*, "There are loads of people who are able to transition, while hanging onto their current job and working in the evenings or weekends to build something new. It's not always easy to quit and start fresh. First you've got to get your resume to read a little differently, and sometimes it's easier to do that within the place you already are. So look for things you can volunteer for, within your current job, that will take you one step closer to where you want to end up."

Jumping in

But if you do decide to quit one job to seek another, Miedaner recommends you save enough to cover your everyday expenses while you're searching. Plan on a six-month reserve if you're looking for a new job and two years of reserves if you're planning to start your own business.

And if you're considering a lower-paying career, you need to crunch the numbers first. "Get really clear on what your monthly expenses are, and all the things that you're going to cut," she says. "Generally, if you can get the housing situation right, that makes the rest easier. People sometimes think, 'Well, I'll give up my daily cappuccino,' but they keep the same house. Yet you can easily afford ten cappuccinos a day if you're living in a smaller house with lower taxes."

Mangelsdorf agrees, but she cautions that before you take any drastic steps, you should figure out if you're fed up with your career–or just frustrated with your job. "If you're just slightly dissatisfied with your job, think about making small shifts that would make you happier," she says. "Are there any parts of your job that you like? Is it possible to do more of those, and less of the parts you don't like? If not, there may even be different types of jobs in your industry or organization that you might enjoy more."

But if you truly are miserable in your career, Miedaner says, don't be afraid to pull the plug. "I knew a client who was a successful sales manager in a corporation, made loads of money, but he wasn't happy. Ever since he was a little boy, his dream was to be a policeman–so he became a policeman. His family downsized their house, and their whole lifestyle was seriously downgraded. But when his wife was asked if it was worth it, she said, 'A hundred times yes, because there's nothing worse than living with somebody who's unhappy. Now he loves what he does. He's happy, and I'm happy.'

"So having a slightly higher quality of life doesn't compensate for having a job that really stinks. Changing careers is not an easy thing to do. But in the end, it is so worth doing." CF

In Your Words

My New Life In the Making

I lost a job and gained an opportunity to follow my dream

By Beth Jakubowski

This fall I will become a student at the University of Michigan and major in environmental studies and biology. Some mornings I still wake up and wonder, "What am I doing? I'm 48 years old; is this the right direction?"

I could either say life has brought me to my educational path or my educational path has brought me to life. Whichever it may be, all I really know is that right now I am happy. I'm beginning to follow the real me, the grounded me, the life I am meant to participate and serve in.

In 2008, I was working as a project manager at a financial company. I'd been in the business field for over 20 years beginning as a secretary and advanced along the way in various positions at various corporations. When I acquired a work-related shoulder injury I discovered that my physical pain made me contemplate my life and its meaning.

I began walking on my own two feet and rediscovering what it was that made my soul warm and my heart jump. Just being in the stimulating environment of college opened up parts of me I was not so sure would ever make it out into this world again.

I'd been attending WCC part time since 2007 and little-by-little was discovering my intellectual and social potential. I got to know faculty, employees and classmates on campus who broadened my scope in relation to world affairs, compassionate endeavors, hard work rewarded and the beauty of life.

I became involved in the WCC Environmental Committee and volunteered my time on environmental issues on campus and the community. I began walking on my own two feet and rediscovering what it was that made my soul warm and my heart jump. Just being in the stimulating environment of college opened up parts of me I was not so sure would ever make it out into this world again.

With my injury I realized that no matter what was to happen, I would not give up educating myself since it fostered such wonder and growth.

There is nothing like spending ten hours a day, six days a week doing heartless work to deplete creativity, passion and a zest for life. But I needed to work to pay for what little my family did have. So I acquired skills and earned money and recognition.

If I could expend this amount of energy and hard work into jobs I hated, I wondered what I could do with a job that I loved, one that nourished me and stirred my heart and mind.

Then in March 2010, I was laid off from my job of six years as a project manager. Maybe it was a blessing in disguise, but I have to admit, my identity had always been linked to working and being a parent. What was I now?

You could say I was a new woman in the making.

I'd become a single parent at the age of 23 when my son was three and my daughter was 18-months old after I left an emotionally and physically abusive marriage of three short years.

Although I originally felt a sense of purpose and excitement as to what my life could hold, I wasn't prepared for the emotional upheaval of raising two children, while at the same time raising myself.

I didn't know the first thing about balancing child-raising, home responsibilities, a low-paying secretarial job, daycare and life itself. I came from a sheltered, Catholic, lower middle-class family that didn't understand my decision to leave my husband and a "normal" life, so my resources and family support systems were minimal at best.

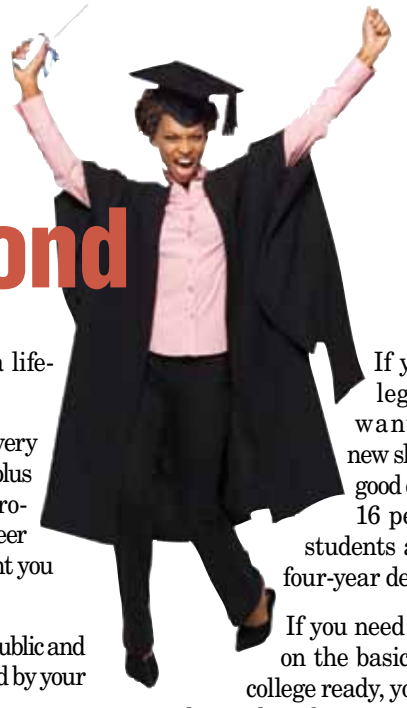
After many years of working and raising two children as a single parent, my son and daughter were grown and living their own lives. With my layoff I was free to attend college full time. I decided that the best example I could set for my son and daughter was to discover me–who I am, what makes me laugh, how to enjoy my life, and find what gives it meaning.

Today I'm discovering that I revel in the wonder and awe I felt at moments such as when I heard my first lecture in biology by a passionate professor; when I created my first drawing in art class; and when I was first introduced to works of the artist Georgia O'Keeffe.

Pursuing my education, even now, when I am no longer young, has allowed me to dream of a life that has meaning.

Today I dream of fairness and justice for all beings, and I dream of a life that nurtures me, my son and daughter and the world both inside and outside. **CF**

The Basics and Beyond



College means different things to different people. For some it's a given. Raised to value education, these students know that a degree is the best way to a good job and a lifetime of economic security. For others it's a second opportunity to learn more, earn more or follow a dream that been put on hold too long.

College can mean a short-term certificate to get you into a new career, an associates degree to get you on your way to a career, a promotion or a four-year college. Or it can mean a bachelor's, master's, Ph.D or professional degree that fulfills a lifelong ambition.

WCC can provide the first step to every single one of those goals. WCC's 100-plus certificate, degree, and transfer programs can help you reach your career and life goals no matter at what point you begin.

And WCC cost much less than most public and private colleges because it's supported by your Washtenaw County tax dollars.

WCC serves students with all kinds of different goals.

If you have a college degree and want to acquire new skills, you'll be in good company–about 16 percent of WCC students already have a four-year degree or higher.

If you need to to brush up on the basics before you're college ready, you'll be relieved to know that about 15 percent of WCC students take pre-college developmental courses in reading, writing or math.

And for those who need extra help, WCC offers everything from a noncredit reading clinic to a noncredit math refresher to GED preparation.

WCC's Academic Skills programs can help students acquire the habits and skills to succeed in college too.

Find out more about how WCC can help you reach your goals. Visit *www.wccnet.edu* or call the Student Connection at 734-973-3543 with your questions. **CF**

Washtenaw Community College | SCHOOL OF ADVANCED MANUFACTURING SYSTEMS

Whether your interest is in robotics, manufacturing or automation, the programs in the School of Advanced Manufacturing Systems will fit your needs. Maintain and troubleshoot the machines that make commercial goods by specializing in one or more aspects of the machining industry. Develop entry level or advanced skills in electronics, automation, industrial computing, fluid power, numerical controls or welding. Advanced specialization is also available in some of these areas.

National Median Salaries

Numerical Tool and Process Control Programmers–$46,010*

Automation

Are you looking for a career as a hydraulic technician, in robotics or an introduction to manufacturing engineering? Consider the field of Automation.

Automation Technology Certificate
Fluid Power Certificate
Automation Technology Associate in Applied Science

Electronics

Specialize in industrial electricity/electronics or computerized systems and programmable logic controllers. The field of Electronics is open to you.

Industrial Electronics Technology Certificate
Industrial Electronics Technology II Advanced Certificate

Machine Tool

Learn about machining operations through the production of parts using WCC's extensive machine tool laboratory.

Machine Tool Technology Certificate

Manufacturing

Develop skills needed to be a numerical control operator or utilize your imagination in the field of manufacturing. Innovation and lean manufacturing are important skills in the field of manufacturing.

Advanced Manufacturing Certificate
Numerical Control Programming Certificate

See the School of Advanced Manufacturing Systems Video
wccnet.edu/flashvideos

Related Options

Welding–See School of Construction Technology

Computer Systems Tecnology Certificate–See School of Information Technology

Planning to transfer? Talk to a WCC counselor about the College's wide range of transfer and articulation agreements with four-year institutions.

Washtenaw Community College | SCHOOL OF APPRENTICESHIP STUDIES

Find a trade-related associate's degree program that builds on your unique set of skills while giving you the knowledge and skills needed to move into organizational leadership.

Apprenticeship Studies

Individualized programs that utilize earned certificates, apprenticeships and trade-related credits tailored to the needs of the student. The Occupational Studies degree offers the flexibility to combine certain certificate programs with general education courses and electives to develop an individualized Associate in Applied Science degree.

Apprentice Completion Certificate
Journeyman Industrial Associate in Applied Science
Occupational Studies Associate in Applied Science

Articulated Union Building Trade Programs

These programs are restricted to members of the United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipefitting Industry of the United States and Canada.

Construction Supervision Certificate
Construction Supervision Associate in Applied Science
Construction Supervision Associate in Science

United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipefitting Industry of the United States and Canada

These programs are restricted to members of the United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipefitting Industry of the United States and Canada.

Industrial Training Associate in Applied Science
Industrial Training Associate in Science
Sustainable Technologies in HVACR Associate in Applied Science

Planning to transfer? Talk to a WCC counselor about the College's wide range of transfer and articulation agreements with four-year institutions.

*Salaries are based on most current data available as of June 2010. Earnings vary based on experience, education and location. *From the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics most current Occupational Employment Statistics (May 2009). **From Salary.com.*

Washtenaw Community College | SCHOOL OF AUTOMOTIVE AND MOTORCYCLE TECHNOLOGY

If you are looking for the best technical training in the automotive or motorcycle fields, WCC's School of Automotive and Motorcycle Technology is the place for you. Whether your focus is finding employment as a technician, learning about performance or creating a custom look, our intermediate and advanced certificate programs as well as associate's degrees will enhance your personal and professional qualifications. These programs offer the perfect blend of classroom and hands-on education not available in any other educational setting.

National Median Salaries

Automotive Body and Related Repairers–$37,980*

Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics –$35,420*

Motorcycle Mechanics–$31,820*

Auto Body Repair

These certificates prepare you for various positions in the auto body repair industry.

Auto Body Repair Certificate
Collision Repair Refinish Technician Advanced Certificate
Collision Repair Technician Advanced Certificate

Automotive Services

The automotive certificates prepare you for work as an automotive technician, diagnosing and repairing malfunctions in automobile systems.

Automotive Mechanics Certificate
Automotive Services Technician Advanced Certificate

See the Auto Body Repair Video
wccnet.edu/flashvideos

Custom Cars & Concepts

Develop advanced skills in the customization of the auto body through the completion of these advanced certificates.

Custom Auto Body Technician Advanced Certificate
Custom Fabrication & Chassis Design Advanced Certificate

Motorcycle Service Technician

Prepare for a career as a motorcycle mechanic or build upon skills already developed.

Motorcycle Service Technology I Certificate
Motorcycle Service Technology II Advanced Certificate

Related Options:

Welding–See School of Construction Technology
Occupational Studies–See School of Apprenticeship Studies

Planning to transfer? Talk to a WCC counselor about the College's wide range of transfer and articulation agreements with four-year institutions.

Washtenaw Community College | SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURIAL STUDIES

Learn the fundamentals you will need to become a business leader or entrepreneur. These programs help you develop entry-level skills in various aspects of business. Whether your goal is to make your place in an existing industry or branch out on your own, these programs can provide the foundation for success.

National Median Salaries

Sales Representatives, Wholesale Manufacturing,Technical and Scientific Products–$71,340*

Employment, Recruitment and Placement Specialists–$46,200*

Food Service Managers–$47,210*

First Line Supervisors/ Managers of Construction Trades and Extraction Workers–$58,330*

First Line Supervisors/ Managers of Mechanics, Installers, Repairers–$51,000*

Executive Secretaries or Administrative Assistants–$41,650*

Medical Secretaries–$30,800*

Entrepreneurship

Learn how to recognize market opportunities and plan a small business through completion of this certificate program.

Entrepreneurship Certificate

Business

Choose one or more areas in the field of business as you prepare for your future.

Business Sales and Marketing Certificate
Human Resource Management Certificate
Management Supervision Advanced Certificate
Management Supervision Associate in Applied Science

Accounting

Accounting and tax services, CPA firms and small businesses need employees with accounting skills. These programs can provide the skills needed for entry-level positions.

Accounting Certificate
Accounting Associate in Applied Science

Business Office Systems

Whether you are just starting out in an office or advancing to a high-level administrative or executive assistant position, these programs can help you achieve your goals.

Administrative Assistant I Certificate
Computer Software Applications Certificate
Medical Office Assistant Certificate
Administrative Assistant II Advanced Certificate
Administrative Assistant Technology Associate in Applied Science

Related Options

Business Associate in Art–See Transfer and University Parallel Programs
Occupational Studies–See School of Apprenticeship Studies

Planning to transfer? Talk to a WCC counselor about the College's wide range of transfer and articulation agreements with four-year institutions.

Washtenaw Community College | SCHOOL FOR CHILD CARE PROFESSIONALS

If you yearn to be involved in nurturing the next generation of young people, the School of Child Care Professionals is the place to begin. Gain the knowledge and skills required for state licensing and national childcare credentials while enjoying the personal experience of working directly with children.

National Median Salaries

Preschool Teachers–$24,540*

Child Care Professionals

Whether you are looking to care for children in a home-based center or a professional or school-based setting, these programs can prepare you for an entry-level position as a child-care professional.

Child Development Certificate
Child Care and Education Advanced Certificate
Child Care Professional Associate in Applied Science

Planning to transfer? Talk to a WCC counselor about the College's wide range of transfer and articulation agreements with four-year institutions.

Washtenaw Community College is accredited by

The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association
30 North LaSalle Street, Suite 2400, Chicago, IL 60602-2504
(312) 263-0456
www.ncahlc.org

For information on Washtenaw Community College, visit www.wccnet.edu, or call 734-973-3300

Washtenaw Community College ADA/EEO/Title IX/Section 504 Compliance Statements

Washtenaw Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, religion, national origin, age, disability, height, weight, marital status or veteran status in provision of its educational programs and services or in employment opportunities and benefits. WCC is committed to compliance in all of its activities and services with the requirements of Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, Public Act 453, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended, Public Act 220, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

Inquiries concerning programs and services under Title IX and Section 504, and the Americans with Disabilities Act should be directed to the Office of the Associate Vice President of Student Services, Room SC 275A, Student Center Building, 734-973-3536. Inquiries regarding compliance in employment should be directed to the College Affirmative Action Officer in the Office of Human Resource Management, Room 120, Business Education Building, 734-973-3497. Inquiries concerning access to facilities should be directed to the Director of Plant Operations, Plant Operations Building, 734-677-5300.

Title II Student Right to Know and Campus Security Act Compliance Statement

The Student Right to Know and Campus Security Act of 1990 is a federal law that mandates the disclosure by all institutions of higher education of the rates of graduation, the number of incidents of certain criminal offenses, and the default rate for student loans. The law also mandates that information be provided on the type of security provided on campus, the pertinent policies regarding security on campus, and policies that record and deal with alcohol and drug abuse. Washtenaw Community College is in full compliance with these provisions and provides the required information annually through college publications. Inquiries concerning the Student Right to Know and Campus Security Act should be directed to Washtenaw Community College, Office of the Associate Vice President of Student Services, Room SC 275A, Student Center Building, Ann Arbor, MI 48106 (telephone 734-973-3536).

WCC is a smoke-free campus.

*Salaries are based on most current data available as of June 2010. Earnings vary based on experience, education and location. *From the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics most current Occupational Employment Statistics (May 2009). **From Salary.com.*

Washtenaw Community College | SCHOOL OF CONSTRUCTION TECHNOLOGY

Become part of the growing global community of skilled trades professionals or skilled trades managers. Design, plan, construct and complete structures for your home or for your career. You can earn a certificate or degree in Residential Construction, Construction Management or Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning. These programs offer the perfect blend of classroom education and hands-on training. At the Henry S. Landau Design and Construction Training Center, you will be taught construction skills from the ground up. You can learn classic skills such as woodworking or modern techniques needed to maintain or improve your own structure. On the main campus, the HVACR program offers a wide range of training to equip high-end technicians with the knowledge and skills needed for successful entry into the field.

National Median Salaries

Construction Managers–$82,330*

Carpenters–39,470*

Heating, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Mechanics–$41,100*

Welder, Cutter, Solderers or Brazers–$34,750*

Construction Management

Prepare for work in the construction management or property maintenance industries through the completion of these programs.

Commercial Property Maintenance Technology Advanced Certificate

Construction Management Associate in Art

HVACR

Whether you are working on residential or commercial equipment, these programs prepare you for a career in the heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration industry.

Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Residential Certificate

Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Commercial Advanced Certificate

Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Industrial Advanced Certificate

Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Associate in Applied Science

Residential Construction

If you want to learn basic construction, prepare to take the Michigan Builder's License exam or are considering starting a construction business, this is the place to start.

Residential Construction I Certificate

Cabinetmaking/Millwork Systems Technology Advanced Certificate

Residential Construction II Advanced Certificate

Residential Construction Associate in Science

See the Residential Construction Video

wccnet.edu/flashvideos

Welding and Fabrication

Learn skills from beginning welding to advanced fabrication for a career as a welding maintenance mechanic.

Welding Certificate

Welding Mechanics Advanced Certificate

Welding Associate in Applied Science

See the Welding Video

wccnet.edu/flashvideos

Related Options

Management Supervision Advanced Certificate–See School of Business and Entrepreneurial Studies

Management Supervision Associate in Applied Science–See School of Business and Entrepreneurial Studies

Planning to transfer? Talk to a WCC counselor about the College's wide range of transfer and articulation agreements with four-year institutions.

Washtenaw Community College | SCHOOL OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

Develop the skills and knowledge necessary for work in law enforcement and criminal justice. Completion of the Police Academy Certificate prepares you to take the exam necessary for a career as a police officer.

National Median Salaries

Police and Sheriff Patrol Officers–$53,210*

Correctional Officers–$39,050*

Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement

These programs prepare you for a career as a police officer or in criminal justice.

Police Academy Certificate

Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement Associate in Applied Science

See the School of Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Video

wccnet.edu/flashvideos

Related Options

Criminal Justice Associate in Art–See Transfer and University Parallel Programs

Planning to transfer? Talk to a WCC counselor about the College's wide range of transfer and articulation agreements with four-year institutions.

Washtenaw Community College | SCHOOL OF CULINARY ARTS AND HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT

Find your passion in food, friends and elegant surroundings. Develop skills for an entry-level position in restaurant, hospitality or institutional settings. Whether your interests lie in pastry and wedding cakes, food preparation and marketing or management of food service, these are the programs for you.

National Median Salaries

Food Service Managers–$47,210*

Chefs and Head Cooks–$40,090*

Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management

Develop the skills necessary for a career in the hospitality industry.

Baking and Pastry Certificate

Culinary Arts Certificate

Hospitality Management Certificate

Culinary and Hospitality Management Associate in Applied Science

See the Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management Video

wccnet.edu/flashvideos

Related Options

Management Supervision Advanced Certificate–See School of Business and Entrepreneurial Studies

Management Supervision Associate in Applied Science–See School of Business and Entrepreneurial Studies

Occupational Studies–See School of Apprenticeship Studies

Planning to transfer? Talk to a WCC counselor about the College's wide range of transfer and articulation agreements with four-year institutions.

What is the National Median Salary?

CareerFocus uses salary information from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and *Salary.com* unless noted otherwise. These figures represent the national midpoint earnings for each job description. This means that half the U.S. employees surveyed in a particular occupation earn less than this figure and half earn more.

Individual salaries vary based on the region, the size of the employer and the employee's education, experience and skill level. You can research your potential salary at *Salary.com*, *The Occupational Outlook Handbook* at the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics website (www.bls.gov) or by checking with professional organizations and local employers.

Salaries are based on most current data available as of June 2010. Earnings vary based on experience, education and location.
**From the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics most current Occupational Employment Statistics (May 2009).*
***From Salary.com.*

Washtenaw Community College | SCHOOL OF DIGITAL MEDIA ARTS

Creativity abounds in the School of Digital Media Arts which encompasses the disciplines of animation, graphic design, internet professional, photography and video. These programs introduce students to foundational skills and prepare them for creative jobs using those skills.

3-D Animation

Learn the basics of three-dimensional animation used in videos, games and on the Web. This degree will prepare you for an entry-level position in digital modeling and animation.

3-D Animation Associate in Applied Science

Digital Video

Complete these programs to learn how to create digitized video productions for the Web and other presentation forms.

Digital Video Film Production Certificate

Digital Video Production Associate in Art

Graphic Design

From the foundations of visual communication through production techniques, this field allows you to utilize your creative and artistic abilities.

Graphic Design Certificate

Graphic Design Associate in Applied Science

Internet Professional

Join the Web development industry through the completion of these certificates.

Web Technology Certificate

Web Application Developer Advanced Certificate

Web Graphic Design Advanced Certificate

Web User Experience Advanced Certificate

Photography

Develop skills in composition, processing and presentation needed for a satisfying career in professional photography or as a means of personal expression.

Photographic Imaging Certificate

Photographic Technology Associate in Applied Science

Related Options

Iternet Professional AA Degree–See Transfer and University Parallel Programs

Planning to transfer? Talk to a WCC counselor about the College's wide range of transfer and articulation agreements with four-year institutions.

National Median Salaries

Multi-Media Artists and Animators–$58,250*

Television, Video or Motion Picture Camera Operators–$42,940*

Film and Video Editors–$50,790*

Graphic Designers–$43,180*

Art Directors–$78,580*

Photographers–$29,770*

Web Designers–The middle 50 percent earn between $55,230 and $72,236**

See the Digital Media Arts Video

wccnet.edu/flashvideos

See the Photography Video

wccnet.edu/flashvideos

Washtenaw Community College | SCHOOL OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The School of Applied Information Technology gathers the diverse areas that make up the computer technology of today. From basic programming languages to systems development through networking, these programs provide the core of information technology. Develop skills in computer scurity or data recovery and analysis. The growing field of applied information technology is waiting for you.

Networking

Develop and manage computer networks as a network administrator/engineer.

Computer Systems Technology Certificate

Computer Networking Academy I Advanced Certificate

Computer Networking Operating Systems I Advanced Certificate

Computer Networking Associate in Applied Science

Programming

Learn the foundation of computer programming or specialize in a programming language through these programs.

Foundations of Information Systems Certificate

C+ Programming Advanced Certificate

Programming in Java Advanced Certificate

Computer Science: Programming in Java Associate in Science

Information Systems: Programming in C# Associate in Science

Computer Security and Data Analysis

Become part of the growing field of computer system security and forensics.

Foundations of Computer Security Certificate

Foundations of Data Recovery and Analysis Advanced Certificate

Network Security Advanced Certificate

Data Recovery and Analysis Advanced Certificate

Computer Systems Security Associate in Applied Science

Data Recovery and Analysis Associate in Applied Science

See the Computer Security Video

wccnet.edu/flashvideos

Systems Development and Administration

Develop and manage computer systems and using universal operating systems.

Linux/Unix Systems I Certificate

Related Options

Computer Science Transfer AS Degree, Information Systems Transfer AS Degree, Mathematics and Computer Science AS Degree–See Transfer and University Parallel Programs

Planning to transfer? Talk to a WCC counselor about the College's wide range of transfer and articulation agreements with four-year institutions.

Washtenaw Community College | SCHOOL OF MUSIC AND PERFORMING ARTS

Students learn basic creative and performance skills in music, drama and dance and how they are applied in a professional setting. Whether you are exploring your own talents, coordinating the talents of others, or practicing the techniques you will need to make a living at your craft, the School of Music and Performing Arts provides the fundamentals you need.

National Median Salaries

Musicians and Singers–$22.36/hr*

Sound Engineering Technicians–$46,370*

Music and Performing Arts

Develop the skills for a career in music performance, engineering or production through these certificate programs.

Music Performance Certificate

Music Production/Engineering Certificate

Planning to transfer? Talk to a WCC counselor about the College's wide range of transfer and articulation agreements with four-year institutions.

See the School of Music and Performing Arts Video

wccnet.edu/flashvideos

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Washtenaw Community College | SCHOOL OF NURSING AND HEALTH SCIENCES

Find your place in the growing field of healthcare. Whether your interest lies in the traditional field of nursing or the new program in physical therapist assistant, the School of Nursing and Health Sciences provides a variety programs designed to prepare students for entry-level positions in dental assisting, pharmacy technology, radiography, physical therapist assistant, nursing assistant or professional nursing.

National Median Salaries

Dental Assistants–$33,230*

Nursing Aides, Orderlies or Attendants–$24,040*

Registered Nurses– $63,750*

Pharmacy Aides–$20,800*

Physical Therapist Assistants–$48,290*

Radiologic Technologists and Technicians–$53,240*

Dental Assisting

Prepare for a career as a certified dental assistant through the completion of this program.

Dental Assisting Certificate

Health Care Foundations

Uncertain of your specific career path in the field of health care? This certificate program can provide the essential basic skills to prepare for a specialized program.

Health Care Foundations Certificate

Nursing

Prepare for a career in a variety of healthcare settings through this certificate and associate in applied science degree program.

Nursing Assistant Skills Training Certificate of Completion
Nursing Transfer U-M School of Nursing Associate in Applied Science
Nursing Transfer EMU School of Nursing Associate in Applied Science
Registered Nursing Associate in Applied Science

Pharmacy Technology

Work with a professional pharmacist to meet the medication and customer service needs of individuals in a variety of settings.

Pharmacy Technology Certificate

See the School of Nursing and Health Sciences Video

wccnet.edu/flashvideos

Physical Therapist Assistant

Work with a physical therapist to provide selected services to patients with a wide variety of conditions.

Physical Therapist Assistant Associate in Applied Science

Radiography

Prepare for a career as a radiographer operating various medical imaging equipment.

Radiography Associate in Applied Science

Related Options

Management Supervision Advanced Certificate–See School of Business and Entrepreneurial Studies

Occupational Studies–See School of Apprenticeship Studies

Planning to transfer? Talk to a WCC counselor about the College's wide range of transfer and articulation agreements with four-year institutions.

Washtenaw Community College | SCHOOL OF PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATION

We live in an age of communication. The School of Applied Communication is here to serve those who want to develop skills in radio broadcast, technical writing or in print and online journalism.

National Median Salaries

Radio and Television Announcers–$27,520*

Reporters and Correspondents –$34,360*

Technical Writers–$62,730*

Writers and Authors–$53,900*

Broadcast Arts

Prepare to transfer to a four-year school or begin a career in radio and/or other forms of broadcast arts.

Broadcast Arts Associate in Art

Professional Writing

This program provides a foundation for beginning writers to undertake advanced studies at a four-year institution

Technical Writing Associate in Science Degree
Technical Writing Certificate
Technical Writing Associate in Arts Degree
Journalism Associate in Arts Degree

Planning to transfer? Talk to a WCC counselor about the College's wide range of transfer and articulation agreements with four-year institutions.

Washtenaw Community College | TRANSFER AND UNIVERSITY PARALLEL PROGRAMS

If your goal is to continue your education toward a baccalaureate degree, then the Transfer and University Parallel program is the track for you. Complete the first two years of study in a supportive environment with small classes and personal attention.

National Median Salaries

Accountants or Auditors–$60,340*

Wholesale and Retail Buyers–$48,650*

Administrative Services Managers–$75,520*

Kindergarten, Elementary, Middle and Secondary School Teachers–from $47,830 to $52,200*

Engineers–from $68,730 to $108,020*

Physicians or Surgeons–from $152,240 to over $200,000*

Social Workers–from $38,200 to $49,420*

Business

Designed for students who intend to transfer into a four-year school program in business.

Business Associate in Art

Computer Science

Provides a foundation in computer science or business information systems.

Information Systems Associate in Science
Math and Science Associate in Science

Criminal Justice

This program prepares you for a career in law enforcement, the courts or corrections.

Criminal Justice Associate in Art

Education

These programs offer the first two years of instruction required to become a certified teacher in the state of Michigan.

Elementary Education Associate in Art
Secondary Education Associate in Art

Exercise Science

This program prepares the student for further study in areas of exercise science.

Exercise Science Associate in Science

Internet Professional

This program prepares you to join the Web development industry.

Internet Professional Associate in Art

Liberal Arts Transfer

This program of study can be individualized to meet your needs or the requirements of the transfer college or university.

Liberal Arts Transfer Associate in Art

Math and Science

Learn more about math and science, and prepare for careers in engineering, physics, medicine or medical research.

General Studies in Math and Natural Science Associate in Science
Math and Science Associate in Science
Pre-Engineering/Physics Associate in Science
Pre-Medicine Associate in Science
Environmental Science Associate in Science Degree

Social Work

This program prepares you to transfer to a bachelor's degree program in social work.

Human Services Associate in Art

Planning to transfer? Talk to a WCC counselor about the College's wide range of transfer and articulation agreements with four-year institutions.

*Salaries are based on most current data available as of June 2010. Earnings vary based on experience, education and location. *From the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics most current Occupational Employment Statistics (May 2009). **From Salary.com.*

Live or work near U-M? WCC offers classes close to you

For fall semester, WCC introduces a pilot program, offering credit classes, taught by WCC instructors, at convenient evening hours. All classes will be held at Mason Hall, in the heart of U-M's campus.

Proposed classes include:

ENG 111	Composition I
ENG 225	Composition II
COM 101	Fundamentals of Speaking
PLS 112	Introduction to American Government
PSY 100	Introduction to Psychology
PSY206	Life Span Developmental Psychology
SOC 100	Principles of Sociology
MTH 160	Basic Statistics
CIS 100	Introduction to Computer Software and Applications

Registration begins:

July 14 for current and readmitted students

July 21 for new students

For more information, call 734-973-3543 or visit www.wccnet.edu

Washtenaw Community College

The Ypsilanti Community Band
is now the
Washtenaw Community Concert Band

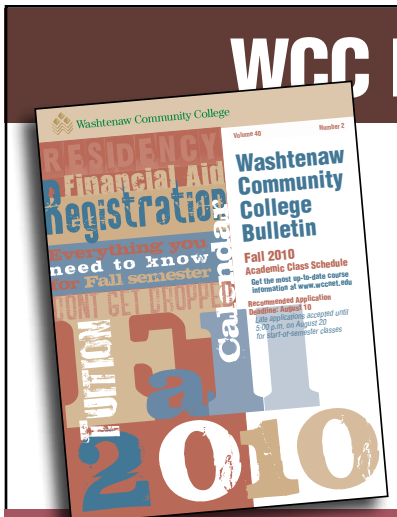
Welcoming musicians looking for a true concert band experience

In partnership with Washtenaw Community College, earn 2 credits by enrolling in MUS 112

Find out more about the class by visiting
www.wccnet.edu

For more information on the band call
734-252-9221
or e-mail at
ypsicommband@gmail.com

WCC FALL 2010



Registration Starts July 21

for new students.

Classes start August 27

Don't Get Dropped!

Pay by August 5 to keep your seat
Pay the day of registration after August 5

WCC is now offering more

WEEKEND CLASSES

to fit your schedule

Find Saturday (Sa) and Sunday (Su) classes online at www.wccnet.edu

Washtenaw Community College

LIVE LIFE TO THE FITTEST

The Health & Fitness Center at Washtenaw Community College

You'll find a 75,000 sq. ft. facility with open spaces and spectacular views. It's beautiful. It's friendly. It's a great place to get healthy and fit.

- Free health and fitness classes including yoga, Pilates and spinning
- A walking/jogging track
- Free weights, resistance and cardiovascular training equipment
- A large lap pool and a warm therapeutic pool with wheelchair access
- Spacious locker rooms with whirlpools, steam, sauna and massage
- Free parking...and much more!

"The Health & Fitness Center is a true community resource. From the variety of free classes offered every day, to the certified personal trainers, to the on-site childcare, this center meets all my fitness needs."

Kim, Ann Arbor

Discounts available for groups of 5 or more people.
For more information, or to join, call (734) 975-9950 or visit www.wccfitness.org

The Health & Fitness Center
AT WASHTENAW COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Residential Builders Residential Maintenance & Alterations Contractors

Three-hour Continuing Competency Class

- 1 Hour in Legal Issues
- 1 Hour in Codes
- 1 Hour in Safety

Cost is only $59!

Select the Class that Fits Your Schedule

Wednesday, September 22, 2010—6:30 pm to 9:30 pm
Wednesday, October 20, 2010—6:30 pm to 9:30 pm

The class is approved by the State of Michigan and fulfills the three hour continuing competency content required by May 31, 2011.

Be sure to sign up early; space is limited.

For those who need additional continuing competency education, Washtenaw Community College offers many pre-licensure classes to meet these requirements. Please check visit our website **wccnet.edu/lifelong-learning** for up-to-the-minute information about all LifeLong Learning classes.

Registration begins July 14

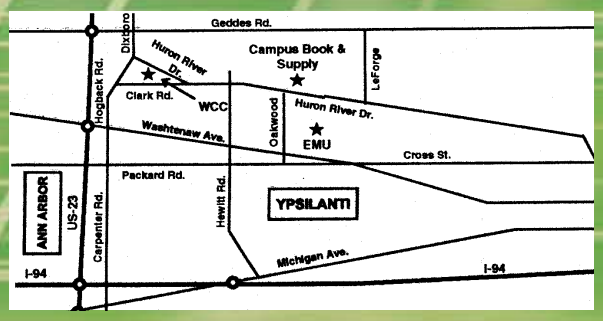
LifeLong Learning @WCC

Focus on Textbooks (but spend less $!)

Shop at Campus Book and Supply

Textbooks for all classes at Washtenaw Community College and Eastern Michigan University

1078 Huron River Drive, Ypsilanti
Eastern Plaza, next to McDonalds (only minutes from WCC)



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CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY ANN ARBOR

EDUCATE YOUR AMBITION

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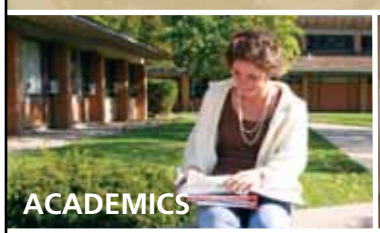

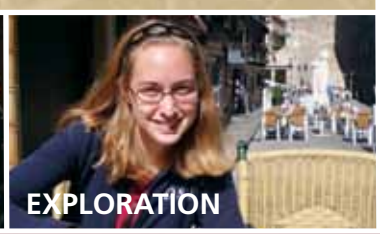

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- Academic, athletic, fine art & leadership scholarships available
- National and international internships
- Study abroad: England, Italy, Spain & more
- The Concordia Cardinals are members of the NAIA Division II WHAC Conference

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"I knew that education would get me where I wanted to go. Education is like wings, it can make you soar."

Deidre Griffin,
WCC accounting student

"I needed to find a new career. The scholarship I received from the WCC Foundation was a great relief and lifted a burden off my shoulders."

Eliyahu Gurfinkel
WCC nursing student

Thank you for your generosity

The WCC Foundation helps hundreds of students each year afford their education, but the demand has outpaced the available funds.

Please consider a gift to the WCC Foundation and join our 25th Anniversary Circle of Giving.

For more information call **734-973-3665** or visit **wccnet.edu/foundation**

GIVING OPPORTUNITIES • GIVING OPPORTUNITIES • 25 YEARS

WCC *Foundation*

Attention Social Workers:

Don't miss these exciting opportunities

An entire day of CEU's focused in specialize practice areas; each session is value priced for **just $79.**

Early Childhood Mental Health & C.A.R.E. Training

Friday, October 22
One Day—6 CE Hours
(9:00 am to 4:00 pm – lunch is on your own)

Aging, Attitudes & Cultural Competency

Friday, November 19, One Day—6 CE Hours
(9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Lunch is on your own)

Registration begins July 14

Be sure to check **wccnet.edu/lifelong-learning** for up-to-the minute information about these and other great LifeLong Learning classes. Please let us know if you'd like a brochure and/or email announcement by sending an email to sentenman@wccnet.edu

For more information, call **734-677-5060**

LifeLong Learning @WCC

Find Answers to Your Career Questions

CareerFocus Café

www.careerfocuscafe.com/washtenaw

On the menu:

Job Hunting Tips
Career Trends
Salary Information
Careers on Video
Workplace Advice
College Resources
And More

CareerFocus Café is the new online companion to CareerFocus magazine

CareerFocus
Washtenaw Community College

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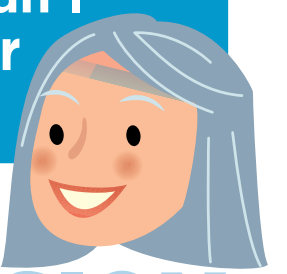
I need a new career, so how do I manage work, school and two active boys at home?

BLENDED

I'm comfortable online and I manage my time well, what's available for me?

ONLINE

I don't like the commute to campus, can I study closer to home?



EXTENSION

As a new student, how can I interact with my instructors and meet new friends?

TRADITIONAL

My Saturdays are usually free, are there classes I can take then?

WEEKEND

I need retraining but my days are spoken for, when can I fit it in?

EVENING

NO MATTER WHAT YOUR SITUATION, WCC WILL MAKE COLLEGE WORK FOR YOU.

Mix and match these scheduling options to fit your unique lifestyle.

BLENDED
The perfect balance–online and on campus, in most cases you'll meet in class only once a week.

ONLINE
Experience a 100% interactive online learning experience from the comfort of your home.

EXTENSION
WCC brings college to you in Brighton, Hartland and Western Washtenaw County.

TRADITIONAL
Immerse yourself in the familiar world of weekday classes.

WEEKEND
We've rearranged class times to maximize your Saturday and Sunday schedule.

EVENING
Make every hour count. Your day goes well beyond 5 p.m., so do your study options.

WCCFlexEd

For more information, call 734-973-3543 or visit www.wccnet.edu/flexed/